

Spring 2004

## Marginalia no. 16

Merrill-Cazier Library  
*Utah State University*

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# Marginalia

friends of utah state university libraries

## REMEMBERING the past

Nine months into construction, most of the work for the Merrill replacement library has taken place below ground. The mechanical spaces, air duct work, electrical conduits and elevator shafts comprise a major portion of the early construction work. This will change very quickly as we enter the warmer spring and summer months. Slowly, the building will start to emerge from the ground.



Jacobsen Construction has estimated that there will be roughly 12,500 yards of concrete poured for the project. All of the concrete work will be completed by August 2004. By mid April, some 7500 yards of that concrete will be in place. All of the footings and foundation will be completed. By the beginning of Fall semester, all four above ground levels of concrete work will be completed. The structural shell of the new library will have established its place on campus.

The Library staff has also been busy preparing for the completion of the new building. There are three major projects underway that will take advantage of new technology within the Library and provide better access to collections. The Serials unit of the Materials Acquisition Department has been creating item records and bar coding all of the journal volumes. Over 125,000 volumes have been processed and

the project has an expected completion of summer '05. This project is preparing the journal collection for inclusion in the Automated Storage/Retrieval System. The Circulation unit of the Patron Services Department has been placing a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag into each book volume. This RFID tag will allow for self check out of books as well as provide a mechanism for inventory control. The Cataloging Department is involved in a retrospective cataloging project (pre-1976) of the Libraries' government publications. As the regional depository for the State of Utah, this project will provide greater access to thousands of publications not only to USU constituents but to people throughout the State.

The Library staff, building architects and contractors are working hard to create a library that will serve as the intellectual and physical center of Utah State University campus.

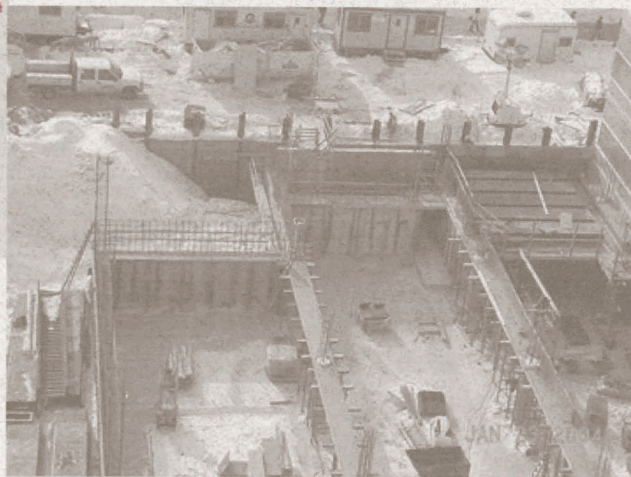
— John Elsweiler  
Associate Director, USU Libraries



From Top: Original Library (1930s); Merrill Library (circa 1960s); & New Library, under construction (2004).

## Building for the future ...

Building





# *A Postscript from Venice:*

notes on friends lecture series



As part of the 2004 Friends of USU Libraries Lecture Series, Ona Siporin presented an excellent lecture "Guarding the Stones of Venice." The audience listened with rapt attention as Ms. Siporin described the efforts to preserve the streets of Venice, Italy.

"There is so much to tell, I hardly know where to begin," says Ona Siporin of her work with the Committee for the Defense of Venice. These are the facts: the ancient street stones, the lamps made in Austro-Hungary, the fountains crafted centuries ago, and the small four-hundred-year-old shrines that appear here and there on the corners of buildings and above entryways, are disappearing. They are being replaced with cheap imitations of shoddy workmanship, by laborers who lack the traditional skills and knowledge to be working in a city that, down to the ancient stones of the streets, is a work of art and ingenuity.

In addition to city officials' (many of whom are not Venetian) inappropriate regulation of the basic artisanal artistry of the city, the buildings and statues of Venice are crumbling under a downpour of acid rain created by too many boats using too much diesel fuel.

Most of this extra boat traffic is due to tourists who flock mostly to the center of Venice: San Marco and Rialto, stop to buy (often imitation) lace work and glass (imported for sale by unethical store owners), and then shuffle off to their tour buses having "seen" Venice, unaware of their part in the debasement of the city. Their relentless shuffle wears away the beautifully designed stonework; they touch, rub, and climb on statues that should be only admired visually, and they pay big money for food, housing, and trinkets, raising the cost of living so high that the Venetians can no longer afford to live in their own city and are forced to move to the mainland.

This sad situation raises questions we should all consider: How does one best love and respect a place? How does one be an appropriate guest? What does it mean to indigenous populations when we pass through their area? How informed are we about the places we visit? What is the least invasive way to travel? When does our money do damage?

After the presentation Friends visited with Ona about her work.

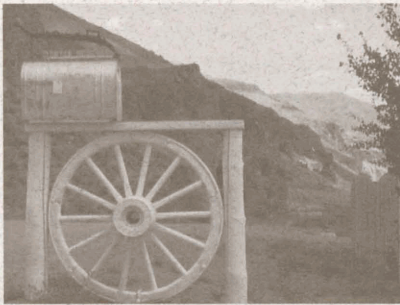
**"nostalgia  
is like a  
grammar  
lesson...you  
find the  
present  
tense  
and the  
past  
perfect."**

— unknown



# hay DERRICKS, GRAVEMARKERS and the internet: the fife slide collection online

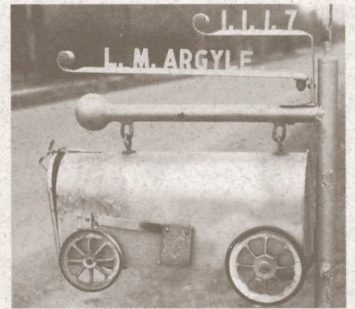
Folklorists Austin and Alta Fife spent a lifetime documenting the vernacular architecture of the Intermountain West. Their extensive annotated slide collection documents hay derricks, gravemarkers, mailbox supports, stone houses, quilts and much more. In 1966, the Fife's deposited their extensive fieldwork collections at Utah State University's Special Collections and Archives. From that time until their deaths, Austin and Alta continued to add to their fieldwork collections with the hope that it would aid researchers far and wide. In collaboration with Utah State University's Cataloging Department and Technical Services, the Fife Folklore Archives has worked to broaden the reach of the Fife Slide Collection making it available online as part of USU Libraries Digital Library Program and The Mountain West Digital Library.



Through the Libraries' digital program, the Fife Slide Collection is being transformed from a locally-held resource into a digital treasure accessible by anyone with internet access. Check out the first stages of the project at:

<http://library.usu.edu/Digital/index.html>

*Randy Williams  
Folk Archives Curator  
USU Libraries*



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## looking back ...

**bygone years at usu now just a click away**

The Special Collections & Archives department of USU Libraries houses thousands of historical images of Utah State University. The earliest images date back to the building of the south wing of Old Main in 1889. The latest photos date nearly to the present. These images were collected initially by former Curator of Special Collections A.J. "Jeff" Simmonds. Through the years, other archivists took over the duties of visually documenting the institution's history. Starting in the 1970's the more popular images were mounted onto archival cardstock boards, cataloged individually, and placed in filing cabinets. Over two years ago USU library staff began the painstaking task of digitizing these photos.

Through the efforts of the libraries' staff, digital images were uploaded onto the library's website. To date there are 1,887 images from this collection available for viewing at <http://library.usu.edu/Specol/index.html>. The photographs document the history of the institution including construction of buildings, student activities, ROTC, athletics, university staff, the library, and of course, graduation exercises. The digitization of these images brings archival research online and introduces the history of our University to a much greater audience. Not only is it helpful for university staff to have photos online for publications or presentations, alumni all over the world can access the images over the World Wide Web and remember their days at Utah State University.

*Photo, USU Special Collections*



*Daniel Davis  
Photograph Curator  
Special Collections & Archives*

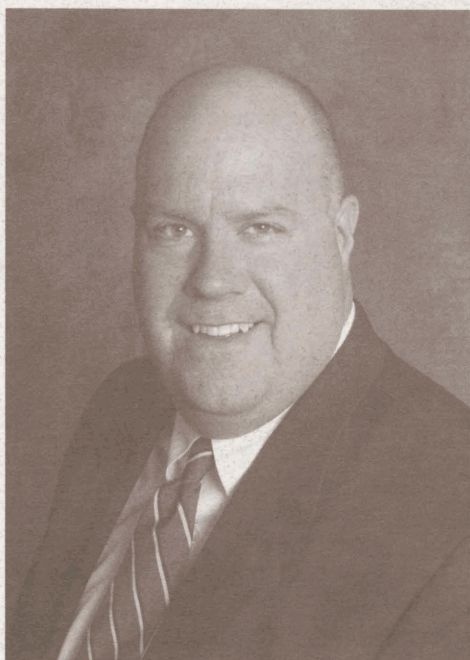


# kent clark, director of development: doing a **SUPER** JOB FOR USU LIBRARIES



Since November of 2003, Kent Clark has served as the Director of Development for Libraries and Instructional Support at Utah State University. He has over seven years of fund development experience in organizations ranging from churches to grass roots community projects to international disaster relief. He is a graduate of Michigan State University (BS) and Cincinnati Bible Seminary (MA). Prior to coming to Utah State, he was the Director of Development for International Disaster Emergency Service in Indiana.

Kent's personal interests include theology, history and travel. His recent reading shelf includes *A University for the 21st Century* by James Duderstadt, *Blue Latitudes* by Tony Horowitz, and *The Measure of All Things* by Ken Alder. Kent and his wife Rebecca have two boys, Rob (13) and Max (11). They have settled in Smithfield with their dog, Buddy. They enjoy hiking and skiing together.



## meet kent clark

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**Marginalia** What are your responsibilities with the Library?

**KC:** As Director of Development, my primary duty is to make sure that we do a good job relating with the many people who support the library. I am in charge of actively communicating our needs to people who are making a difference with private donations.

**Marginalia:** Why is it important to raise private funds for the new library? Didn't the Legislature pay for the construction?

**KC:** It is true that the basic construction costs have been provided by the State's capital budget. But it is important that people understand what the State is not paying for. Private and University dollars must be used for any new furnishings in the building. In addition, a modern library is a very technologically-intensive place, and we need to have high-caliber equipment for our students. Also, missing from the project as it stands is money for public art in the new library. We believe that the new University Library will be a huge step forward for our campus, but it simply does not make sense to build a state-of-the-art building and leave it under-furnished and under-equipped.

"WE  
appreciate  
every  
single gift  
to the  
LIBRARY"

**Marginalia:** Is there a way that donors to the campaign can be recognized for their gifts?

**KC:** We appreciate every single gift to the library. This new building gives us some special ways to demonstrate our appreciation. Because we are going to be asking our supporters to make significant gifts to the project, it is only right that we recognize those gifts in a lasting way. Commensurate with the size of the gift, there will be opportunities for naming rooms and areas in the new facility. From large public spaces to quiet reading rooms, we want to celebrate those who support this effort with a lasting tribute. We plan to place plaques to designate rooms named for supporters, as well as a central display of thanks.

**Marginalia:** Some people prefer to give to programs instead of buildings. Are there priorities for funding other than the building?

**KC:** Obviously, the building rising in the center of campus is our top concern. We need to raise the funds soon to ensure the quality finish of the building. But our supporters also need to know that acquisitions librarians are under tremendous budget pressures. Books are costly, of course; the cost of academic journals is going up on average 12% per year. As the University grows, we need to add materials to support research. We need current dollars to supplement our acquisitions budget, and we need to build endowed funds that will support our collection in the future.

**Marginalia:** How can friends and supporters of the library get involved?

**KC:** Clearly we need financial support for the building as well as acquisitions. Just as much, though, we need advocates: people who are willing to tell others about the exciting things happening at the library. We need the students, faculty, alumni and friends of Utah State University to recognize that an outstanding library really is the Intellectual Center of our campus.

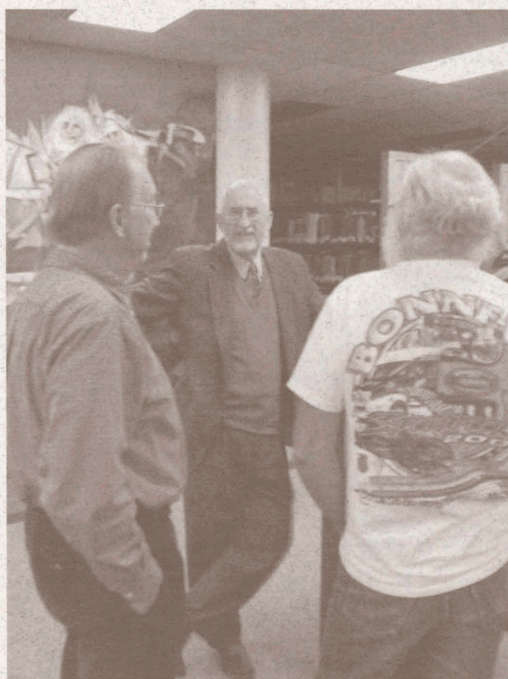


# an unearthly Beauty...

## RACING ON THE BONNEVILLE SALT FLATS



On January 23, Professor Ron Shook of Utah State's English Department gave an illustrated talk on "Racing on the Bonneville Salt Flats." An avid car enthusiast, Shook is something of an expert on racing at Bonneville, having served there as a volunteer course marshal and done extensive research into the social and ecological history of the flats. His research has also led Shook to visit automobile museums in Europe, where some of the vehicles that set records at Bonneville are now displayed. Shook is just now finishing a book about racing at Bonneville, having co-authored the project with historian Jessie Embry, assistant director of the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at Brigham Young University.



For his presentation at the library—part of the Friends of the USU Libraries Lecture Series—Shook used slides and anecdotes to trace the history and highlights of Bonneville. The salt flats make a particularly good place to break speed records because they comprise hundreds of square miles so flat and clear of obstacles that the curvature of the earth can be seen. Each day, the salt dries under the sun to form a surface hard enough to support heavy vehicles, yet soft enough to be gentle on rubber tires. Shook showed pictures of local hero Ab Jenkins and his "Mormon Meteor," which set records in 1931, and went on to relate how Bonneville in the 1930s became a playground for legendary British drivers and their cars, such as Sir Malcolm Campbell in "Bluebird," Captain G.E.T. Eyston in "Thunderbolt," and John Cobb in his "Railton Mobil Special." According to Shook, these Brits believed that, while other nations might dominate the closed race circuits, it was the destiny of the British to hold the land speed record, despite the lack of suitable land on which to achieve it in the British Isles. Due to their success, everyone in Britain knew about Bonneville, even though few could say exactly where the salt flats were located.

— Dr. Keith Grant-Davie  
Associate Professor  
Director of Graduate Studies in English

At Left: Professor Ron Shook [center] chats with guests at the lecture.  
Above: The "Mormon Meteor" (1931) resembles a rocket with wheels.

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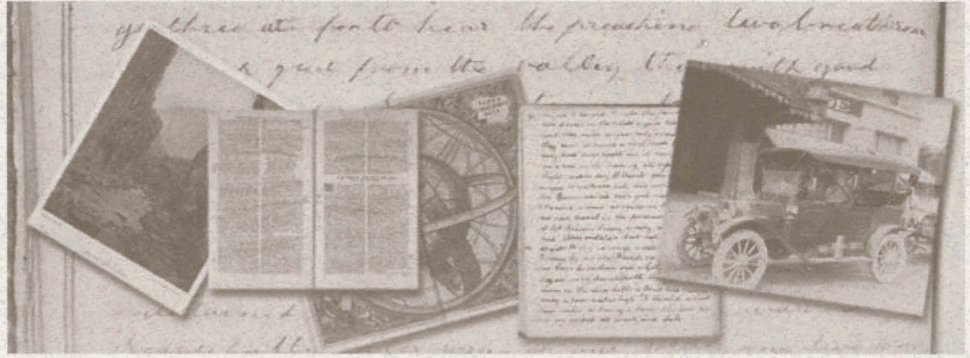
## friends fund access to **The New York Times** historical edition

The Library recently received a \$25,000 funding commitment to be distributed over the next five years from the Friends of the USU Libraries. A proposal was presented to the Friends seeking financial support to assist the Library in buying the electronic ownership rights to the Out-of-Copyright Historical *New York Times* (1851-1928). The Library had a window of opportunity to acquire this product for a total purchase price of \$45,000 spread over five years. The remainder of the purchase price (\$4,000) and annual subscription fee (\$6,500) will be covered by the Library. An advantage of this proposal, besides the fixed one time cost, is that copyright law on newspapers allows for only 75 years of protection. Thus, the out-of-copyright coverage is a moving time line. While the proposal showed a coverage of 1851-1928, because of the copyright restrictions, every year a new year of data will be added to our ownership at no additional cost. To demonstrate this process, by the end of the five year purchase period the Library will own rights to the data from 1851-1933. So over a long period, it will be very cost efficient for the Library to acquire this data at the fixed one time cost of \$45,000.

The Historical *New York Times* is a unique full-image archive database of the newspaper covering 1851 to the present. This database allows the University clientele to search, access and print articles. The database delivers every page of every issue from cover to cover. The Historical *New York Times* gives researchers quick, accurate Web access to national and international history as it was reported by the nation's leading newspaper.



# the mountain west digital library



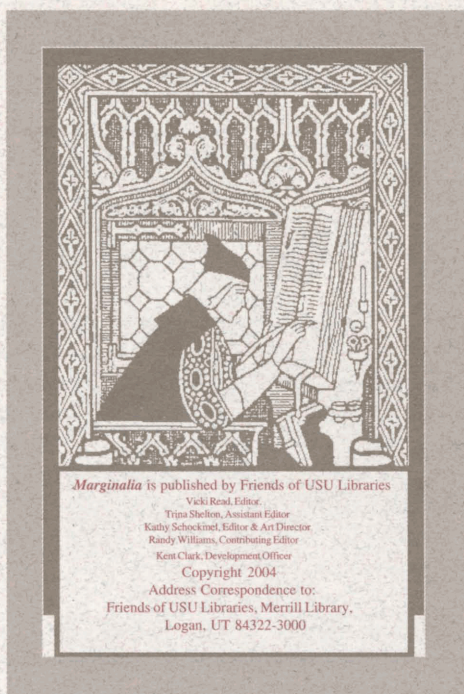
**L**ibraries in the Utah Academic Library Consortium (UALC) have been actively developing digital collections but with a twist. UALC formed the Mountain West Digital Library (MWDL) which provides access to the unique special collections materials in the states of Utah and Nevada through a single web site <http://mwld.org>. The MWDL was developed to promote cooperation and collaboration among the academic libraries, public libraries, museums, and historical societies in Utah and Nevada.

With the MWDL, four academic institutions, including Utah State University Libraries, serve as regional digitization centers and provide services and support for other institutions such as historical societies and public libraries which would not have the equipment or staff expertise to perform the digitization of their collections. For a fee, these hubs will digitize materials and provide the clients with the image files. They then train the staff how to use the software to input descriptions, or metadata, for the images and upload them to their collections.

The result is a rich collection of images from a number of institutions which may not otherwise be able to digitize their unique resources. An added benefit is the ability to search all of the collections simultaneously. You can enter search terms and retrieve images from several different collections. Some examples of collections which have been made available include our own Death Valley photograph collection, Murray City Library's collection of historical photographs, University of Utah's Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, the Topaz Museum photographs archives and the Utah State Historical Society's Olympic Legacy photograph collection.

The Mountain West Digital Library has been funded through grants from the Library Services and Technology Act and by UALC and participating institutions. We hope you will take time to explore these fascinating collections.

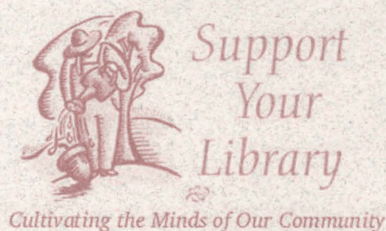
—Betty Rozum  
Associate Director for Technical Services  
USU Libraries





# friends of usu LIBRARIES BOARD 2004

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# friends welcome mary gilbert palmer

Mary Gilbert Palmer discovered her love of books and libraries very early. Before she had even started school, her mother taught her to cross two streets in their small northern New York village to reach the public Carnegie Library which also housed a kindergarten in the basement. These solo visits to select picture books and then "walk home from school" with the twins from next door, fired her lifelong passion for books and libraries.

An undergraduate degree in Political Science from Syracuse University and a masters degree in Old Testament and Theology at American University's Wesley Theological Seminary created opportunities for foreign study and her growing love of travel. By the time four sons finished high school, Palmer had both a D.C. catering firm and an antiques and importing business that featured British Victorian jewelry.



When her family moved to Cache Valley in 1987 Palmer left D.C. catering to a younger sister and opened an antiques shop on Federal Avenue in Logan. After that store closed, she began more graduate studies, this time at Utah State University learning the skills of the professional historian. By 2001, her history degree completed, she had moved the Palmer Collection to S.E. Needham Jewelers and became jewelry historian for Utah's oldest jewelry store. Palmer continues regular foreign research and buying, often traveling with her husband Tom Wilkerson, a research scientist at Utah State University. She also attends jewelry seminars and professional societies both here and abroad and observes that, "to do something I love which includes getting paid to travel, is a dream come true."

## yes! i would like to join friends of utah state university libraries!

### category

### yearly dues

### application

- ☐ Student Member  
included in student fees, upon application
- ☐ Associate Member \$25.00
- ☐ Book-of-the-Year Club \$50.00
- ☐ Semester Book Club \$150.00
- ☐ Book-of-the-Month Club \$500.00
- ☐ Benefactor \$750.00
- ☐ I would like information about naming Utah State University  
in my estate plans.
- ☐ I have already included USU in my estate plans.
- ☐ Yes, I (or my spouse) work for a matching-gift company.  
If yes, please enclose matching-gift form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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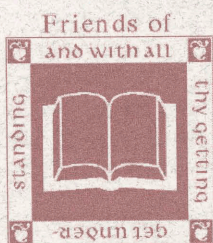
Select a category and send check and this form to:

**Friends of Utah State University Libraries**  
**3000 Old Main Hill**  
**Logan UT 84322-3000**

U S U Libraries  
 thank you for your support!



# Utah State UNIVERSITY



USU Libraries

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logan, ut. 84322-3000

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Permit 1

## LIBRARY week: april 19-23

april 20th 10-11 AM: SciTech 120  
*New Library Construction Update*

april 21st 2-4 PM: Eccles Conference Center Auditorium  
*Library Career Program*

april 21st 7 PM: Merrill Library Poetry Reading by  
*Poetry at 3. An annual event featuring English  
professors, graduate students, biologists and community  
members reading their original poetry.*

.....  
*Throughout the week display cases will feature books, articles, find-  
ing aids, preservation examples, etc. produced by Library staff. Take  
an online questionnaire that enters you in a random drawing.  
Grand Prize is a gift certificate to Borders Books.*